

## DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 139 426

IR 004 849

AUTHOR Benson, Gregory  
TITLE A Survey to Determine the Extent of State Education Agency (SEA) Efforts to Develop Data Bases of Sea-Funded Projects and/or Exemplary Projects and Practices.  
INSTITUTION New York State Education Dept., Albany. Educational Programs and Studies Information Service.  
PUB DATE Apr 77  
NOTE 9p.; Best copy available  
EDRS PRICE MF-\$0.83 HC-\$1.67, Plus Postage.  
DESCRIPTORS \*Data Bases; Educational Resources; \*National Surveys; Program Development; Projects; \*State Agencies; \*State Departments of Education.

## ABSTRACT

The New York State Education Department received a grant to develop an ERIC compatible educational resource data base containing descriptions of SEA funded projects. Sixty-seven percent of SEA representatives surveyed indicated they are currently or are considering building a data base, most using ERIC as a standard. A significant number were developing computer retrieval resource bases and indicated they would like their efforts to be computer compatible. Based on these results, the study recommended: (1) that the National Institute of Education (NIE) acknowledge the need for and fund additional SEA data base development efforts; (2) that efforts be coordinated; and (3) that NIE collect report formats and more detailed information. The survey form and list of responding SEA's are appended. (KP)

\*\*\*\*\*  
\* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished \*  
\* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort \*  
\* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal \*  
\* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality \*  
\* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available \*  
\* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not \*  
\* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions \*  
\* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. \*  
\*\*\*\*\*

ED139426

A SURVEY TO DETERMINE THE  
EXTENT OF STATE EDUCATION AGENCY (SEA)  
EFFORTS TO DEVELOP DATA BASES  
OF SEA-FUNDED PROJECTS AND/OR  
EXEMPLARY PROJECTS AND PRACTICES

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH,  
EDUCATION & WELFARE  
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRO-  
DUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM  
THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGIN-  
ATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS  
STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT  
OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF  
EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY.

by  
Gregory Benson

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

April, 1977

Educational Programs and Studies Information Service  
Division of Research  
New York State Education Department  
Albany, New York 12234

IR004849

## INTRODUCTION

The New York State Education Department received a National Institute of Education (NIE) Dissemination Capacity Building Grant in 1975. The major intent of this grant effort is to develop an ERIC-compatible educational resource containing descriptions of programs operating in New York State and of locally developed (in New York State) instructional materials.

The rationale for this effort is simply that the degree to which educational information is obtained and utilized effectively is directly related to the information relevancy (geographic and content) and ease of access to the information.

As the EPSIS unit of the New York State Education Department initiated efforts to develop a data base, it found a great deal of interest expressed by other SEA's. This interest was and is being expressed as requests for materials (formats, etc.), progress reports and consultative assistance. In addition, several SEA representatives have visited the EPSIS unit to discuss implementation of a similar educational resource base.

Lastly, interest has been expressed by all five Regional Exchanges since they are developing regional resource bases.

## PROBLEM

NIE has indicated to the EPSIS unit that no other SEA's would receive significant funds under the Capacity Building Program to develop a resource base. This is apparently so due to the nature of the program itself and the fact that EPSIS was already funded to do this and other SEA's were to "wait and see" what the outcome of the New York project is.

Unfortunately this stance results in:

1. The incorrect assumption (as shown by this survey) that other SEA's can and will await the final outcome of the New York project before initiating resource development.
2. No organized effort by NIE to coordinate the resource development efforts or make arrangements for technical assistance in that regard.
3. A heavy burden on EPSIS staff caused by a significant number of detailed inquiries regarding the resource development. This problem has been brought to the attention of NIE and acknowledged as not solvable in the near future.

The EPSIS staff, having become aware of numerous efforts by SEA's to develop manual and/or computerized resource bases is concerned that these multitude of efforts ultimately be compatible which would result in a significant contribution to the existence of a comprehensive, national resource base.

## THIS SURVEY

In an effort to determine just how many SEA's are developing resource bases and to get an indication as to how advanced they are, EPSIS staff undertook this brief survey of all SEA Dissemination Representatives and Capacity Building Project Directors (when they differed from the Dissemination Representative).

The cover letter and survey sheet are attached as Appendix A and the list of SEA's responding is attached as Appendix B.

This is certainly not a detailed nor sophisticated survey. However, as the survey results indicate, there is a significant amount of resource development activity in SEA's and attention to the recommendations generated by this survey is warranted.

#### THE SURVEY FINDINGS

- Total Responses - 39 responses representing 37 SEA's (74% of the States)  
Note: Michigan returned 3 survey forms
- 67% of the respondents indicated that they are (44%) or are contemplating (23%) building a program data base of projects funded by the SEA and/or exemplary projects or practices.
- Of those that are or are contemplating data base development, 77% indicated it is or will be ERIC compatible.
- Of those developing data bases, 21% indicated that they are computerized and an additional 12% indicated they will be computerized. At present, 67% are manual systems.
- Of those who are computerized or will be, 63% are developing loading programs.
- Of those who are or intend to have computer retrieval, only 10% are using a commercial vendor. The remainder are utilizing inhouse computer facilities or facilities of nearby educational agencies.
- Of those developing a data base, 65% indicated they have or will have a reporting format.
- Of those developing a data base, 56% indicated they have or will have a processing manual.
- 85% of all respondents expressed interest in a meeting whereby ultimate system compatibility could be insured. A third (33%) of those expressing interest in such a meeting indicated they could attend at their own expense.

#### CONCLUSIONS

1. SEA's around the county are finding it necessary to develop systematic resource bases containing descriptions of funded projects or exemplary projects or practices. This will come as no surprise to many since the availability of such a resource base is a logical extension of the delivery of ERIC.

This need may simply be such an extension or it may be the pressure of economics, accountability and abundant educator inquiries which require easy access to successful programs. It might also reflect the management need to know what has been funded regardless of fund source.

Whatever the motivation, there is an undeniable effort to develop these resources in SEA's.

2. The standard or model after which the majority of these data base efforts are patterned is the ERIC system.

This too will come as no surprise to many since ERIC is a highly viable model and one familiar to thousands of educators.

3. A significant number of SEA's are developing these resource bases with the intent of making them computer retrievable. Of those that are, the vast majority (90%) intend to utilize non-commercial vendors.

Since these efforts are not being coordinated and most of the resultant data bases are to be run independently, there is an extremely high probability that the resultant data bases will not be compatible. This lack of compatibility will be reflected in reporting formats, tape formats, indexing procedures, loading programs and retrieval capability.

4. The vast majority of SEA representatives are interested in insuring the ultimate compatibility of these resource development efforts.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That NIE acknowledge the need for and fund additional SEA efforts to develop program resource bases.
2. That the current and future SEA efforts be coordinated by NIE staff (Dissemination Resource Group - specifically Capacity Building Grant staff and ERIC staff).
3. That an immediate effort be made by NIE staff to collect reporting formats and more detailed information regarding the program resource base developmental efforts underway in SEA's.
4. That a session at the June, 1977 Dissemination Forum be devoted to discussing this issue and outlining steps to insure ultimate compatibility of efforts.

#### COMMENT

Over ten years ago the Federal level recognized the need for a national educational resource base. That recognition led to the development of ERIC. The growth and widespread use of ERIC is evidence of the concern and need that educators have for educational information.

Recently, SEA's have recognized the need to organize and make available programmatic information specific to their State. There is no reason to doubt that these efforts will grow or be used at a rate slower than ERIC. In fact, the evidence would indicate that the SEA resource bases will grow and be utilized at a rate that exceeds that of ERIC.

If these SEA efforts are coordinated, and steps taken to insure compatibility with ERIC, they would represent a significant supplement to ERIC and would be a positive step toward a national data base of exemplary projects in the United States.

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
THE STATE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12234

APPENDIX A

ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONER FOR RESEARCH  
PLANNING AND EVALUATION

DIVISIONS OF RESEARCH  
AND EVALUATION

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND STUDIES  
INFORMATION SERVICE

810-474-3759

CURRICULUM LAB—ERIC SERVICE

February 1977

Dear State Dissemination Representative/Capacity Building Project Director:

As you may know, the Educational Programs and Studies Information Service (EPSIS) unit of the New York State Education Department has been awarded a grant by the National Institute of Education to set up two data bases. The Educational Programs data base will provide educators with a single access point for information that will facilitate the planning of their own programs. The teacher Developed Materials (TDM) data base will provide teachers with a source of information about materials available for use in direct classroom instruction.

These data bases will both be computer retrievable and ERIC compatible. This is a coordinated effort to collect and organize information so that the development of similar materials throughout the State will be reduced to a minimum. This attempt to prevent expensive duplication will also promote cooperation between local districts as well as among program offices at the SEA level.

We are writing to you to determine the extent of other states efforts in this area so as to avoid duplication and future incompatibility among SEA's. We hope you will take a few minutes to answer the questions on the attached sheet. A pre-paid, self-addressed envelope is enclosed for your convenience. Thank you for your help in promoting more comprehensive information services to all educators.

Sincerely,

  
Gregory Benson, Jr.

Coordinator, Educational Programs  
and Studies Information Service

GB/mg  
Enclosures

State Education Agency Survey: Resource Development

Contact Person \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

1. Are you now building a Program Data Base of Programs funded by the State Education Agency and/or of exemplary projects or practices ☐ YES ☐ NO.

2. If No, are you contemplating such a project? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If Yes, when will you begin? \_\_\_\_\_

If you have answered yes to either of the above questions, please go further and tell us:

3. Is your Program Information File ERIC compatible? ☐ YES ☐ NO

4. The file is ☐ MANUAL ☐ Computerized

5. If computerized, are you developing loading programs? ☐ YES ☐ NO

6. Where do you intend to house the file for computer retrieval?

☐ COMMERCIAL (which vendor?) \_\_\_\_\_

☐ OTHER (where?) \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you have a reporting format? (If YES, please send)

☐ YES ☐ BEING DEVELOPED ☐ NO

8. Do you have a Processing Manual to explain procedures for reporting? (If YES, please send).

☐ YES ☐ BEING DEVELOPED ☐ NO

9. Would you be interested in a meeting whereby we could specifically discuss and have working sessions to insure the ultimate compatibility of our efforts?

☐ YES ☐ NO

10. If YES, could you attend a centrally located meeting at your own expense (no Federal support beyond what you have)?

☐ YES ☐ NO

11. COMMENTS:



SEA's Responding to Resource Development Survey

Alaska  
Arizona  
Arkansas  
California  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
Florida  
Georgia  
Idaho  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Mississippi  
Montana  
Nebraska  
Nevada  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Puerto Rico  
Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
Virgin Islands  
Virginia  
West Virginia  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming

NOTE: a survey form was also completed for N.Y.S.